

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1117

By Stevens

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the Vietnam War  
veterans of the University of Tennessee at  
Martin chapter of Alpha Gamma Rho.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the United States have, throughout the years, been called upon to take up arms against the enemies of this great nation, risking their lives and leaving their loved ones behind to honorably safeguard the freedoms and liberties guaranteed to all Americans and vanquishing those who threaten our way of life; and

WHEREAS, the brave service of our soldiers during the Vietnam War continued this time-honored tradition of Tennessee volunteerism, as twenty-one brothers of the University of Tennessee at Martin chapter of Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity answered the nation's call to service to defend democracy and defeat communism in a place far from home; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of Alpha Gamma Rho is to make better men and, through them, a broader and better agriculture; these twenty-one men held to that purpose by exemplifying the old adage that individuals raised on farms make great soldiers due to their work ethic, ingenuity, and brotherhood on the battlefield; and

WHEREAS, in the decades since the Vietnam War, these gentlemen have continued to demonstrate honor, hard and honest work, love of family and community, and the true courage it takes to lead such a life through their deeds and actions; and

WHEREAS, their life stories as Vietnam veterans are chronicled in the book *Better Men: Alpha Upsilon In Vietnam*, which imparts wisdom to not only the young men who call 225 University Street home today but also those who will do so in the future; and

WHEREAS, the members of the University of Tennessee at Martin chapter of Alpha Gamma Rho welcome their brothers home on March 14, 2020; and

WHEREAS, too many times, the brave men and women who served in Vietnam have not been accorded the respect and gratitude they deserve for their courageous actions that ultimately helped shape the history of our great country; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause in its deliberations to recognize these veterans of the Vietnam War who served with such dignity, aplomb, and grace; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend the Vietnam War veterans of the University of Tennessee at Martin chapter of Alpha Gamma Rho, thank them for their service to this great nation, and extend to them our best wishes for every continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.